

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 1-11, 16-24, 39 and 40 are allowed and that claims 31, 33 and 37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 12-15, 25-30, 32, 34-36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Birnbaum (U.S. Patent No. 5,797,128). Birnbaum is directed to a system and method for implementing a hierarchical policy for computer system administration, wherein certain policy groups may inherit the policies of parent policy groups. System administrators can use standardization of managed object configurations to reduce the burden of administering large numbers of instances of a given class of managed objects. However, Birnbaum is not directed to a secure policy provision system and does not anticipate Applicants' claims.

For example, as per claims 12, 25, 34 and 38, Birnbaum has been cited in column 5, lines 1-19 and lines 40-55 as allegedly teaching means, operatively coupled to the means for storing, for securely providing the variable security policy rule data for distribution to at least one network node other than through a forwarded signed message to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement at a network node level. However, the cited portions do not describe any type of secure providing of any variable security policy rule data to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement as claimed. Instead, the cited portion refers to returning policies to a client computer that are relevant to a request. In another cited portion, the portion refers to designating multiple policy groups. However, Applicants are unable to find any mention of any secure provision of variable security policy rule data as claimed. The cited portion appears silent as to such subject matter. Accordingly, the claims are in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

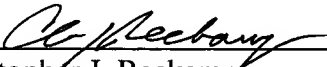
As for claims 29 and 32, claim 29 has been amended to indicate that the variable policy rule data is obtained securely from a central security policy rule data distribution source and not from a forwarded signed message. Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above and as such, this claim is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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